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(54) Abstract Title

Data transfer via director boards and a cache

(57) A system interface includes a plurality of first directors 180 and a plurality of second directors 200 divided amongst a plurality of first and second director boards 190, 210, each having a crossbar switch 320 coupling the directors input/output ports on one of a pair of message network boards, the interface further including a data transfer section and a message network. The data transfer section includes a cache memory 320' which is coupled to the directors 180, 200. The messaging network operates independently of the data transfer section and is also coupled to the first and second director boards 190, 210. Data transfer between the first directors and the second directors is controlled in response to messages passing between them through the messaging network 260 and the data passes through the cache memory 320' in the data transfer section.

The first and second directors may be coupled respectively to computer/server 120 and a bank of disc drives 141.

